

Sermon Title: The Attributes of a Faithful Servant Part II

Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 7-26

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to model the attributes of a faithful servant leader.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 essential attributes of a faithful servant leader.

VI. The 6th attribute of a faithful servant leader is critical thinking. V.7-13

The Greek word consider denotes clear perception, full understanding, and careful consideration. The form of the verb suggests a strong charge, not mere advice by Paul, he wants deep thought given to what he was writing.

- A. Critical thinkers remember Jesus Christ the supreme model of faithfulness.
- B. Critical thinkers remember Jesus Christ is the rightful heir to David's throne.
- C. Critical thinkers remember suffering is tied to communicating the Word of God.
- D. Critical thinkers remember the gospel because the elect are not saved apart from it.

VII. The 7th attribute of a faithful servant leader is craftsmanship. V.14-19

Workman is better translated, the craftsman, (ergaten). The idea around these verses is the feature of talking. V.14, 16. This part of scripture is saying we are not just talkers, we're not just people who stand up and talk, we are craftsmen who handle accurately the word of truth to the degree that we don't need to be ashamed of the way we've handled it and we can present it to God and know it will be approved. God didn't call the preacher or teacher to just get up and talk, but rather to be craftsmen who take the word of truth and handle it with great precision so that we don't need to bear any shame for any misrepresentation but rather can present it to God for His approval.

Approved is (dokimos) means to "stand the test." We take our sermon and we offer it to God, it must meet His approval. (Paristemi)-to stand alongside

1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

A craftsman needs training, he needs tools, and then he needs to have knowledge, understanding and wisdom, with a plan tied to diligent, fervent effort to take his tools and build something that he can offer to God knowing it will meet His approval.

"Handling accurately" actually translated as a verb means "to cut something straight." It's used of cutting a pattern straight. (Tentmaker) It's used of a farmer plowing a straight furrow. It's used of a straight line of bricks laid by a mason. It's used of a straight road built.

In other words, no wavering, no wandering. It's done right. It's cut straight, no deception, no huckstering, no deviation, great precision is required.

- A. The craftsman is accountable to God for approval on all his work.
- B. The craftsman does his best, so he will never be ashamed of anything he has done.
- C. The craftsman must be careful in handling God's Word, must do less talk and more work.
- D. The craftsman must be able to refute false teaching and teachers.

"Solitude is the friend of the gifted preacher."

(1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 3:1-5, 6)

2 Peter 2:6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;

2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

VIII. The 8th attribute of a faithful servant leader is honorable vessel.

Paul's picture of a leader is the image of a vessel, v.20-23 (skeuosin) in the Greek, means a pot, a pan, some kind of utensil. The goal of a faithful servant leader is to be a vessel that is useful. The picture in this section extremely graphic. In an ancient house you had honorable things and dishonorable things. We still do in our houses. We have utensils which bring food to the table, and then we have utensils that take food (waste products) from the table and house. This is why we have plumbing, trash cans, and garbage disposals in our homes.

Verse 21 if you and I want to be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared for every good work, then you have to be cleansed. God doesn't normally use a filthy vessel or utensil. What are we to be cleansed from? Verse 19 gives us a hint! As well as verse 16-17. We are to avoid the filth of false doctrine, or the filth of personal iniquity.

A. The faithful servant leader must be sanctified, pure in his own personal life, set apart from heresy and false teaching.

Numbers 16:26 And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins."

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? **20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Peter 1:15 but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, **16** because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

B. The faithful servant leader must be clean, prepared for the master's use.

(2 Cor. 4:8-15; 2 Tim 2:22)

IX. The 9th attribute of a faithful servant leader is slavery. V.24-26

When its all said and done, we are in the summary of it all, just slaves who serve the master. In verse 24 the Lord's slave (dulos) must act like a bondservant. All of these characteristics are illustrated by the slave who is being empowered by the Holy Spirit. He must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patiently. Yes we have to correct, set things in order, discipline, but we do it with the gentleness and meekness of Christ.

We're to always be humble, always meek (not meaning to be weak in your leading), but lead with a gentle spirit. The symbol of the Holy Spirit is a dove illustrating gentle spirit.

There is a qualification that is consistent "He must be able to teach (didaktikos) with enduring patience, that God may possibly lead them to the path of repentance, in order that they may know the truth, and come to their senses, by escaping the entrapment of the devil, because they have been taken captive to him to do his will and not God's will. **(2 Cor. 10:4-5; 2 Cor. 10:4-5)**

Conclusion: 9 essential questions for evaluation of leadership.

1. Am I eager to be accountable to God for His approval and inspection on my work?
2. Am I willing to work hard and exhaust in toil, careful first to nurture my own soul and be patient for the results in the lives of my people?
3. Do I desire to never be ashamed of anything I offer to Him? Am I careful to handle His Word without error or distortion?
4. Am I committed to talk little and study much?
5. Have I and am I being cleansed from evil?
6. Am I available and ready to serve at all times?
7. Have I distanced myself from false teaching?
8. Am I a servant willing to submit my will to my Master's will?
9. Do I possess the right spirit no matter what happens to me?